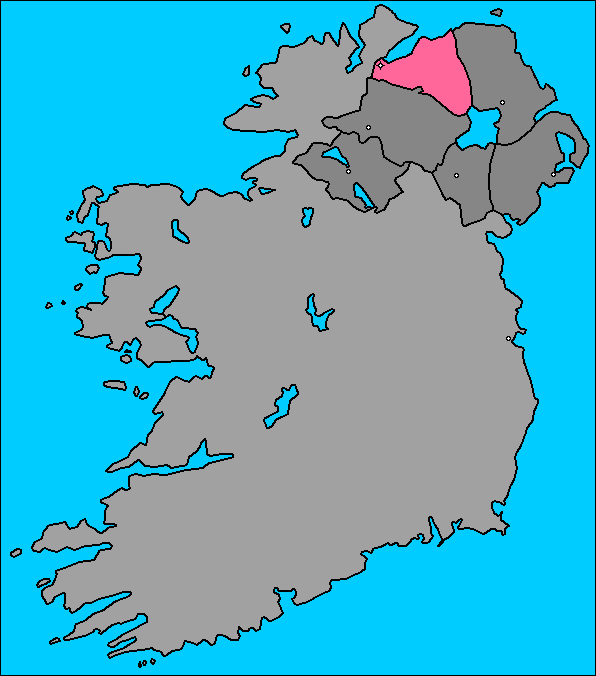
Bloody Sunday 1972

Bloody Sunday occurred on the 30th of January 1972, in Derry, in the small town of Bogside. 26 unarmed civil-rights protesters and bystanders were shot by soldiers of the British Army. Thirteen males, seven of whom were teenagers, died immediately or soon after, while the death of another man four-and-a-half months later was attributed to the injuries he received on that day. Two protesters were also injured when they were run down by army vehicles. Five of those wounded were shot in the back. The incident occurred during a Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association march



**On the Day**

The people planned on marching to the Guildhall, but because of army barricades designed to reroute the march it was redirected to Free Derry Corner. A group of teenagers broke off from the march and persisted in pushing the barricade and marching on the Guildhall. The British insisted that they attacked the British army barricade with stones. At this point, a water cannon, tear gas and rubber bullets were used to disperse the rioters. Such confrontations between soldiers and youths were common, though observers reported that the rioting was not intense.

At a certain point, reports of an IRA sniper operating in the area were allegedly given to the Army command centre. At 4:07 pm, the order to fire live rounds was given, and one young man was shot and killed when he ran down Chamberlain Street away from the advancing troops.

This first fatality, Jackie Duddy, was among a crowd who were running away. He was running alongside a priest, Father Edward Daly, when he was shot in the back. Continuing violence by British troops escalated, and eventually the order was given to mobilise the troops in an arrest operation.

Despite a cease-fire order from the army HQ, over 100 rounds were fired directly into the fleeing crowds by troops under the command of Major Ted Loden. 13 people killed at Bogside, many of them as they attempted to aid the fallen.

**Inquiries**

An inquiry into Bloody Sunday by Lord Widgery in 1972 exonerated the Army. It said their firing had "bordered on the reckless" but said the troops had been fired upon first and some of their victims had been armed.

The results of the inquiry were rejected by the community who began a long campaign for a fresh investigation. In 1998, Tony Blair's government announced a new inquiry into Bloody Sunday. The inquiry, headed by Lord Saville, spent two years taking witness statements. It ended in November 2004 and had cost about £150 million.

Lord Saville's final report and conclusions were supposed to be published in 2005 but the large amount of evidence being considered delayed publication by another five years. It was finally published in June 2010. It concluded none of the victims were armed, soldiers gave no warnings before opening fire and the shootings were a "catastrophe" for Northern Ireland, leading to increased violence in later years.